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Is There a Great Common Danger?

By H. G. Kruse, Editor Benton County Times, Vinton, Iowa.

More and more plainly the fact dawns upon our mind that the system of centralized distribution now gaining a strong hold on the people is a menace to the institutions of our common country, and a system fraught with danger to our very liberties. We have seen a light; we have been converted. Heretofore we have looked upon the great catalogue houses as agencies filling a certain want; but that theory will not stand an impartial and intelligent investigation. Suppose this idea is carried out to the limit and that the catalogue concerns absorb all the business of the country. What then?

We will tell you "what then" according to our lights. Say that the catalogue concerns have supplanted the local distributors, what follows? It is to be supposed that they will rest content with one half of the country's business? Not much. The selling of everything will be only one function of the great centralized system of distribution; next will come the buying of everything, and with the selling of all articles of commerce in the hands of the few and the buying of all products in the hands of those same few, where are we, the common run of people, to find a place in which to exercise our powers as individuals; and what is to become of the freedom and liberties our farmer friends now enjoy under a widely spread competitive system? This is no time or place for fault finding, neither are we in the business of finding fault. We have all

along gone on the theory that the man who earns his money has the right to spend it where he wills, and we still believe in that theory, with certain restriction and modifications, but the question of buying where one wills has something involved beside the mere question of right. There is the future to think of. Are we as a community going to aid a few men to get rich that soon they will control all the nation's resources, are manufactured and are taken from the ground and from the farm yard?

This is not a question for the day or the hour, but a question that has to deal with future. It is not a proposition based on sentiment although sentiment should play an important part, but a proposition based on the individual future welfare. If the present tendency remains unchecked the United States of the future will comprise a few extremely rich, who will manufacture, buy and distribute, and millions upon millions of ordinary men, wholly dependent upon those few manufacturers, buyers and distributors. The greatest good for the greatest number is the underlying principle that should guide man and governments in their attitude toward all public questions. The few, the classes, should be ignored and forgotten because that is the natural law. It is the natural law that no one man or set of men or one community or set of communities should stand in the way of any movement that gives promise of betterment to the general run of man or the general run of communities. We have come to look upon this natural law as God given, therefore just and right. Now if the increased power of the catalogue houses will mean a greater good to the greatest number, let us welcome that increased catalogue house power and the few of us who may be seriously affected seek in other lines of human endeavor, the success we hope to attain.

BUT WHAT MAY SEEM A PRESENT ADVANTAGE TO THE GREATEST NUMBER GIVES PROMISE OF ACTUAL DISASTER TO THE GREATEST NUMBER. We all of us know how the money power has taken a firm grip on this nation and all the nations of the world. How it only remains for the kindred spirits of that money power to secure a grip on the material wealth of this nation and all her nations. With a few men selling almost all the manufactured products, how long would it be before a few men would be buying all the products of the farm. This question of distribution is the greatest question before the American people. All other questions dwarf into insignificance if the fears we now entertain are well grounded. Let us think, men, and think hard. Let us wipe out all sentiment with reference to local associations and look this proposition squarely in the face.

Let us consider the question in this way: Will it be best for me and my children and my children's children to maintain the present competitive system, or will it be best to gradually adopt the socialistic doctrine of a centralized system of distribution? Will it be best to have keen, progressive local business interested, buying and selling farm products, or will it be best to have great centers where the buying and selling of farm products will be carried on?

This question of catalogue house system of distribution has gotten beyond the local merchants. It is not his interests that are to be considered, but the interests of posterity; the interests of the many that now exist. True, there is a duty men owe to their communities as such because the lives of all are interwoven—no man in a community lives unto himself alone, and when local institutions of business flourish all feel the beneficial effects. There are the schools to build and support, the roads to maintain, and last but not least, there stretches forth in times of disaster or distress the helping hand of the local business man, who looks upon you as his neighbor. He is ever ready to aid in a worthy cause and ever ready to sympathize in hours of sadness. He does not buy property every year or two, valued into the millions. He is one of the cogs in a useful piece of machinery, fitting in with you and with me as the other necessary cogs.

Gentlemen, all, we are called upon to conserve the best interests of our nation. It is our bounded duty to give the problem before us our very best thought. This problem must not be looked at from a selfish viewpoint, but from the broad and public-spirited view point of the greatest good to our common country.

The Merchants here and all over the land purpose to combat the present tendency of centralization. If in the right and if their efforts are well directed, they shall succeed. If in the wrong, no harm will come of their efforts and the efforts of their friends in the country, for whether right or wrong a closer bond of sympathy will have become established between man and man.

But they are not in the wrong. The distant thunders proclaim the fulfilling of our prophecies, while the days that have come and gone unerringly point to the disaster that is bound to overtake us as a people.

Owen-Moore. Mr. Joseph E. Owen and Miss Minnie Lee Moore were married Saturday morning at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Poage, Rev. T. M. Cobb officiating.

Mr. Owen is well known in Lexington, having spent the greater part of his life here. He is highly respected by all of his acquaintances. He is at present engaged in farming near Oak Grove.

The bride was born and reared on her father's farm near Mayview. She is a graduate of Warrensburg State Normal and was until Friday a teacher at the Hicklin school.

The Intelligencer joins with their many friends in wishing them a long and happy wedded life.

Killed in South Mine.

Tuesday night about nine o'clock while shooting rock in the South mine, James Gray was killed by falling rock. Charles Johnson, who was with him at the time had one leg badly smashed. Mr. Gray came here from Marshall about a year ago and secured work with the Western Coal and Mining Company. He is survived by two children, and a brother, all living in Marshall.

H. F. Blackwell went to Kansas City Wednesday on business.

Criminal Court. In the case of the state vs. William and Martha Woodson, concealing stolen property, tried by jury and found guilty. They were fined \$100.00 each.

State against Silas Parker, Walter Bowen, Harry Briscoe and J. T. Workuff, continued and set for August 9.

State against Geo. Walk entered to plea of grand larceny, sentenced for two years and paroled.

State against Geo. Walk, charged with larceny from a dwelling, plead not guilty, cause continued and set for Aug. 5. Defendant released on \$500 bond.

State against James Parker, motion for new trial sustained and set for trial Aug. 7.

State against Wm. and Martha Woodson, motion for new trial over ruled. Defendants appealed to Kansas City Court of Appeals.

State against Frank Scott and Wm. Moore, sentenced to the penitentiary for five years for burglary.

State against Noah Beverly, sentenced for 2½ years to the penitentiary for assault with intent to kill.

State against Peter Cooper, parole revoked and execution issued on judgment.

State against Chas. Mills, parole continued.

State against Joe Whitlock, parole continued.

State against Elmer G. Isard, parole continued.

State against M. C. Hurley, parole continued.

State against Alex. Tabb, parole continued.

State against Cate Jackman, parole continued.

State against Webb Holden, parole continued.

Mrs. George W. Mountjoy Dead.

Mrs. Geo. W. Mountjoy died Tuesday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock at the home of her daughter, Mrs. DeMoss, in St. Louis. Mrs. Mountjoy had been sick only a few days. Her death was due to gastritis.

Mrs. Mountjoy's maiden name was Miss Belle Bowman. She was born in Kentucky, and was about seventy-one years of age. She is survived by four daughters and two sons who are as follows: Misses Annie and Bettie and Mrs. DeMoss of St. Louis, Mrs. J. W. Sydnor of this city, and John and Edward of St. Louis. She is also survived by three brothers, Frank, Joseph and Edward Bowman.

Mrs. Mountjoy lived in this city until the death of her husband, when she moved to St. Louis. She was a member of the Lexington Christian church and was loved by a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Her ministrations of love and affection have left impressions that time cannot efface.

The funeral services conducted by Rev. S. Boyd White, will be held this afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the residence of her son-in-law, J. W. Sydnor, 1910 South street.

Dr. B. Clark Hyde came down from Kansas City Wednesday to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hyde.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Henry and little daughter, Virginia, went to Chilhowee Tuesday to visit Mr. Henry's parents.

B. M. Little went to Kansas City Friday evening for a few days' visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bowman of Kansas City announce the birth of a son, April 20, 1912.

Arbor Day Celebration.

The faculty and students of the public schools held an Arbor Day celebration Friday morning beginning at nine o'clock. The celebration began with chapel exercises in the different rooms in the high school assembly. Rev. Clark delivered an address in the assembly, his subject being "A Tree as an example of an Ideal Man. After this the visitors heard several of the classes recite, and visited the rooms of the grammar school. They then retired to the yard and the new state song was sung by a chorus of small children. Mr. W. J. Bandon made an address in which he compared the schools of Lexington in the past with those of the present, telling of the rapid advances and the many improvements which have been made in the last few years. At this point it began to rain and the visitors returned to the high school assembly where the Governor's Arbor Day Proclamation was read by J. R. Moorehead, Jr. The remainder of the time was taken up in visiting the different rooms of the school. A delightful lunch was prepared and served by the girls of the domestic science and cooking classes.

Beautiful Miniature Work.

There have been two very beautiful miniatures on exhibition in the display window of Chas. Weber's jewelry store, the work of Misses Lessie Dillingham and Floy Russell, both students at Central College for Women. They are both pictures of children, and the attractive baby faces, with their exquisite modeling and purity of coloring, have the effect of life size portraits, and the passer by involuntarily stops to give them closer inspection.

The revival of interest in miniature painting has made this branch of art study very popular, and up-to-date artists are giving careful attention to its practice. The skill manifested by these young ladies is remarkable, and reflects great credit on their instructor, and gives promise of signal success in this work.

Klonians Won.

The Klonian literary society of Lexington college won the debate against the Euterpean society Friday evening before a large audience in the Lexington College chapel. The Klonians had the negative on the question, "Resolved that higher education for women tends to decrease marriage." Miss Elizabeth Wilson and Miss Ruth Chastian represented the affirmative, while Miss Laura Wilson and Miss Kitty Worthington won the victory for the Klonians.

By winning this debate the Klonians for a year get possession of the Putnam loving cup.

Hearst's Pathfinder Here.

Saturday afternoon the car sent out by the Hearst's papers to trace a route for a National highway from ocean to ocean, passed through Lexington. The car was headed eastward. Curtis Hill, state highway engineer, was a passenger.

Mrs. Chas. Hoefer went to Higginsville Monday to visit with relatives.

Mrs. Frances Saunders returned Monday night from a visit in Kansas City with relatives.

E. M. Taubman went to Kansas City Monday on business.

"Good Roads Day."

Our esteemed contemporary, B. C. Drummond, is advocating a "good roads day." The Intelligencer heartily endorses the proposition, and believes it would be a good thing only after we have filled up our own mud holes. Lexington should have a good roads day of her own first. There are miles of side streets within the corporate limits of Lexington that are almost impassable, and have been since the advent of her corporate existence. Let's have a good roads day—several of them; but before our money and energies are all expended, we should give our attention to Lexington's streets. Why not have a "goose pond day" and fill up the bloomin' hole?

Collins-McDonald.

Wednesday evening at six o'clock the marriage ceremony of Mr. T. J. Collins and Miss Mayme McDonald was solemnized at the Catholic church, Father Curry officiating.

The contracting parties are well and favorably known in Lexington where they have always lived. Mr. Collins is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Collins, and is a young man of good address and well liked by a large number of acquaintance. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael McDonald. She is a young lady of refinement and in every way fitted to dignify the hymeneal life.

After the ceremony a reception was given the bridal party at the home of the bride's parents at 615 Highland avenue.

Painfully Injured.

Sunday evening Mrs. Emma Welsh on leaving the home of Miss Mary Ball on Main street, fell and broke the socket bone of her left shoulder. She is resting as easy as could be expected. The injury is such that will undoubtedly cause the joint to become stiff.

Merchants 30; High School 10.

The Lexington Merchants put it over the High School Seniors Monday afternoon by a score of 30 to 10. The game was played on Bunker Hill. Both sides showed a lack of practice, and errors were frequent.

The batteries were: L. H. S.—Mann and Bates; Merchants—Sheets and Huber. Struck out by Mann 14; by Sheets 9. Umpires: Kenney and Sheets.

Klonian Play.

On Saturday evening, April 27, at 8 o'clock in the Lexington College Chapel will be given the annual Klonian Literary Society play, "Rebecca's Triumph." Admission 15 cents. After the entertainment the girls of "Our Club" will serve hot chocolate and wafers.

Presbyterian Church.

Dr. A. E. Rogers will preach at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning, April 28, at 11 o'clock. All the members are urged to attend.

J. A. Nigg and family are enjoying a very pleasant visit from his brother-in-law, Mr. G. Mall, and daughter, from Modesta, California. Mr. Mall is on his way to New York, where he will also visit relatives.

Chas. Hoefer, E. B. Campbell and Gustav Haerle went to St. Louis Thursday to attend the Republican State Convention.

Public Sale of Real Estate

On Saturday, April 27, 1912 at 2:00 p. m. The undersigned Executor will offer for sale Lot 2 Block 34 First Addition to Lexington, Mo.

This Lot belongs to the Estate of the late Mrs. Katharine G. Reid and is a part of the site of J. R. Moorehead's Lumber Yard. Sale will take place on the premises. Abstract may be seen at the office of John Taubman & Son, Traders Bank Building.

For terms and further particulars apply to

W. V. A. CATRON,

Executor.